* Additional Excise Duty on Textiles & Textile Articles (AT&T) and Additional Excise Duty (Goods of Special Importance) Act have been abolished.

* Basic customs duty on various textile machinery and spare parts has been reduced to 5%.

Beside, Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to provide an enabling environment for the Indian textile industry to meet the emerging global competition and to increase India's share in textiles and clothing. Some of the important initiatives taken are:

(i) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(ii) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton Government has launched Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The mission comprises four mini-missions, which are being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Textiles. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernizing the existing ginning and pressing facilities and setting up of new market yards/improvement of existing market yards.

(iii) The Government has launched a Centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres to give fillip to exports.

(iv) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, a scheme titled "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) has been launched.

Setting up of Commissions to look into Centre-State relations

*120. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up two Commissions to look into Centre-State relations including issues like sharing of river water and to examine administrative reforms which were reviewed four decades ago;

(b) what are the main reasons for the same and to what extent it will be different than the earlier one;

(c) by when final decision in regard to setting up of two Commissions is likely to be taken; and

(d) by what time, the Commissions are likely to submit their reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government propose to set up a Commission on Centre-State relations to look into related issues including issues like sharing of inter-State river water. The Government also propose to set up an Administrative Reforms Commission.

(b) The Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State relations was set up in 1983, which submitted its report in 1988. The policy and economy of India have undergone significant changes since then. Similarly, the last Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) was set up in 1966. Since the findings of the 1966 Administrative Reforms Commission, important developments have taken place necessitating a fresh look at the entire gamut of public administration in the country. The new proposed Commissions have to look at the issues afresh in the light of subsequent developments that have taken place as mentioned above.

(c) Setting up of these Commissions requires inter-ministerial consultations. It will be done in near future.

(d) The Commissions may submit their reports as soon as their work is over, which may take place in one year's time, from the date on which they start their work.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Medical examination of female candidates to the army

571. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no provision of a lady doctor to conduct medical examination of a female candidate for recruitment in the army;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;